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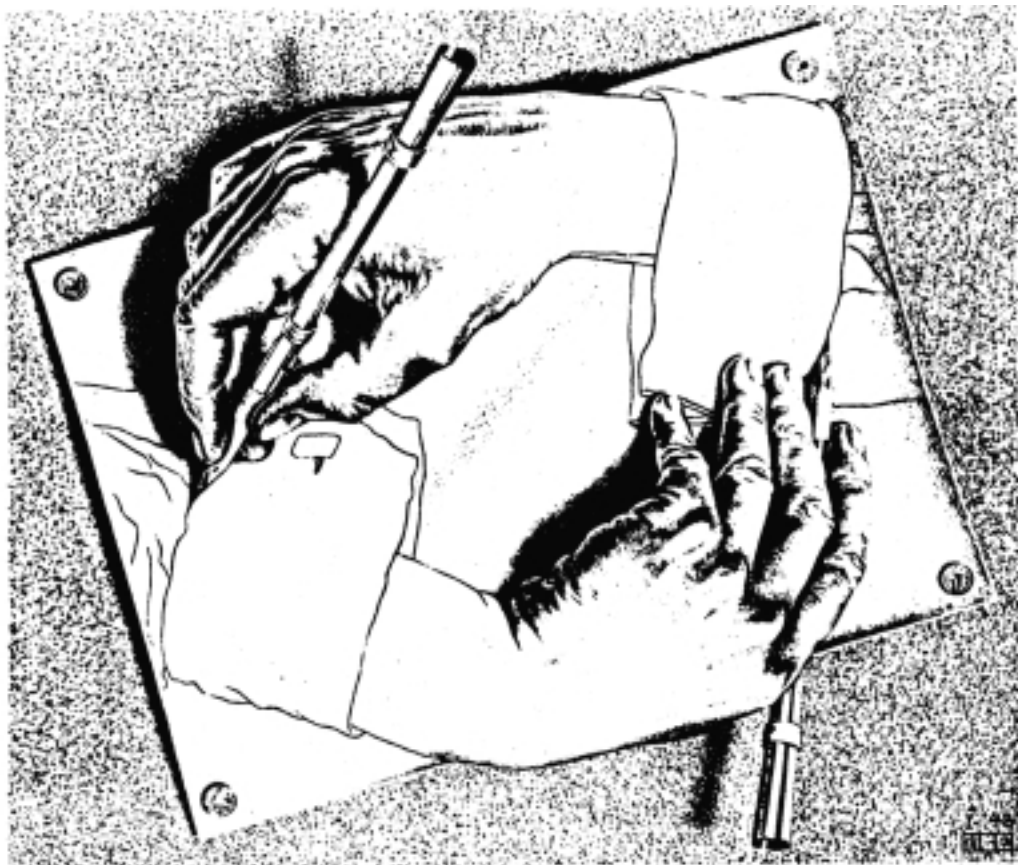
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Writing Grade 8

Scoring Guide with
Annotated Student Papers





Maurits Cornelis Escher

Drawing Hands, 1948

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DAY 1 DAY 1 DAY 1

PREWRITING AND DRAFTING

TOPIC:

Appearances can be deceiving

THINKING ABOUT THE TOPIC:

“What an absurd amount of energy I have been wasting all my life trying to figure out how things ‘really are,’ when all the time they weren’t.”

Hugh Prather

“A celebrity is a person who works hard all his [or her] life to become well known, then wears dark glasses to avoid being recognized.”

Fred Allen, *Treadmill to Oblivion*

“It is only shallow people who do not judge by appearances.”

Oscar Wilde

“Very few people look the part and are it too.”

Don Herold

DAY 1 DAY 1 DAY 1

WRITING ABOUT THE TOPIC:

Sometimes we are fooled by the way things appear or the way people behave. **Write about how things may not be what they seem.**

You might, for example, do **one** of the following:

write about a time when something you thought would be fun, boring, or frightening turned out differently than you expected

OR

explain how making assumptions can sometimes lead to a surprise

OR

examine how making judgments based on appearances can sometimes be hurtful

OR

consider how someone can be fooled by the way something is advertised

OR

write about the topic in another way.

You may use examples from real life, from what you read or watch, or from your imagination. Your writing will be read by interested adults.

(You may use this area and the following pages for freewriting, clustering, outlining, webbing, listing, etc. When you are ready, you may begin your draft.)

Holistic Scorepoint Descriptions

Grade 8

Here is an explanation of what readers think about as they score your writing.

- 4** The central idea is clear and focused, and the writer uses creative, insightful detail. The organization helps unify the piece, and moves the reader easily through the text. The voice of the writer comes through in the rich and precise word choice and effective use of varied sentence structure. The text demonstrates varied use of standard writing conventions with few errors.

- 3** The central idea is clear and focused, and the writer adds basic detail. Overall organization is apparent but may be too obviously structured; there may be extraneous detail which interferes with unity. The writing demonstrates varied sentence structure as well as appropriate word choices, including some engaging vocabulary. Surface feature errors may occasionally distract the reader, but they do not interfere with understanding.

- 2** The central idea is somewhat developed and the writer includes some detail. However, focus may shift and some details may be extraneous. An attempt at organization is apparent although ideas may lack a sense of wholeness. Vocabulary is limited or inappropriate to the task; sentence structure may be simple. Surface feature errors make understanding difficult.

- 1** The writing may show little or no development of a central idea, or may be too limited in length to demonstrate proficiency. Organization may be lacking or may seem arbitrary. Vocabulary is limited; sentences may be choppy, incomplete, or rambling. Numerous surface feature errors may severely interfere with understanding.

Not ratable if:

off topic

illegible

written in a language other than English

blank/refused to respond

Begin writing on this page.

I WENT to Michigan great Adventure water Park

I ~~was~~ was going to go to this water park called Michigan's great Adventure Park. with my mom & dad and brother my next door Neighbor and my cousin and his girlfriend. I thought it was going to be boring because I didn't want to go on some of the rides and water rides. But then I went on a couple of them and it was fun and not boring. Because I tried it once I like the rides I went on. if I didn't try it then I wouldn't know if I liked it or not. Cause I went to this water park before but I didn't try the rides cause I thought I wouldn't like them. But now I want to go back to the water park sometime again over Summer.

Score Point: 1

This response shows little development of the central idea. There is no apparent organization and the vocabulary is limited.

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Begin writing on this page.

Me and T met at eastville school. I though she wasn't that great when I saw her. I though she was going to get on my nerves. But when I met her she was this pretty cool person. But she can get in some grouchy moods. She can make me laugh it don't mater where we are. I don't like when she makes fun of people. I though she wasn't going to like me. But I was wrong. We been best friends for three years. She didn't like my brother. ~~She~~ She isn't shy. I was when I was little. I kind of am know. When I get up to the high school I'm going to talk to everyone and not be shy. My family was shy. Most of them weren't. T is a cool friend. Her brothers are just like my brothers. And my brothers are like her brothers. I call T ~~from my mom~~ we hang out day after day.

I will not let no one beat T. And T won't let no one beat me. I don't know what I would do without T. I have to have her around. She is so nice to me. I'm so nice to her. Everyday we have to see each other or call each other. We stick up for each other. T is my best friend I ever had. We got into a couple of fights but that's it. We never beat each other. We would allways argue. We didn't get into a fight. We didn't talk to each other. We never did that. Some friends do that. But us we didn't do that.

Score Point: 1

This response demonstrates little development of a central idea. The organization is arbitrary, and the sentences not only ramble, but are choppy and incomplete.

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Begin writing on this page.

I once lived in Tennessee. I thought it would be fun but I was wrong. At our house there was no yard and I couldn't ride my bike anywhere. I didn't know of any kids around here that I know at the time. My Dad's boss was mean so my Dad quit. So he tried to find a different job and found one. He was a concrete worker for a big co. But it wasn't working out for us so of course we moved back to Michville. All of my friends were here. I was so happy to see all of my friends again. I was able to ride my bike all around town. I was so happy I was never bored ~~again~~ again.

The End

Score Point: 2

This response contains a central idea that is somewhat developed. An attempt at organization is apparent and some details (specifics about dad's job and move back to Michville) are included.

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Begin writing on this page.

One day, one of my friend's wanted to know if she should have a birthday party, and she wanted some advice on what she should plan for the party. Well, we decided to have a party, and we planned really great ideas on what to do, and the day of the party, everything turned out nothing like we planned. The party was fun and sometimes boring, but we expected it to be really fun because we thought the plans we made would happen. You see a lot on television shows and movies, about people getting wrong appraitions of other people, and they learn what the person is really like, and sometimes they like them, and others don't, but those kinds of shows and movies teach people lessons. The lesson their trying to tell people is, not to judge people on what they wear or what they look like, they say to give the person a chance so you can get to know that certain someone, and then to decide if you should be friends or not. Sometimes if you judge someone right away, it can

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hurt the person your judging, because the person may somehow find out what you said about them, and if you said some thing mean about them, that someone that you judged can be hurt emotionally. I think that no matter what the person looks like or wears that you should give them a chance to get to know each other, and maybe you'll be surprised. You can be surprised, because the person can have a personality just like you, or have a personality totally different from yours and you may like it. If a new student comes to your school, many kids judge that new person right away. It's really hard for new people to adjust to new schools, and it can be really confusing for them too. Especially with new students, because it's hard to make friends the first day, their still kind of shy and quiet, and their still trying to adjust to everything around them. I'll admit that sometimes I do judge people right away, but alot of times I give the person a chance so I can get to

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Knew that person, and so they can get to know me too. A lot of times during school, I see people that are in my classes, and I ~~was~~ think that if I go and talk to them, what they would say back to me, or what they would think of me, but usually we become friends, and others their alright to hang out with.

Score Point: 2

This response contains a central idea that is somewhat developed but general. Although an attempt at organization is apparent, there is a shift in focus, which causes the ideas to lack a sense of wholeness. Sentences ramble and surface feature errors make understanding difficult.

IF YOU NEED MORE SPACE, CONTINUE ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE.

Begin writing on this page.

Appearances can be deceiving

~~comm~~ Appearances can be deceiving like by a movie commercial. It may look like it will be a great movie, but it is a horrible movie. It wasn't like the commercial at all. It mite of looked funny but is wasn't.

Sigered & billboards are deceiving to kids Some times like when they use cartune ^{caricature} ~~caricatures~~ on them. When they have good looking people on the billboards Smoking, it makes people want to smoke so they can look good to and so they can look cool in front of there friends.

Beer commercials use cartune ^{caricature} ~~caricatures~~ to. Like the Budwiser frogs and lizards so they get younger people to like there product and when ~~the~~ they get older then they mite drink there brand.

When you get stufe in the mail tat that will say free membership but in the smaller letters it says \$29.99 for membership. After that you don't get ~~what~~ what you want anyways, then you'll probably have to pay for what you got anyways.

Score Point: 2

This response contains a central idea that is somewhat developed and includes some details (specifics about use of "Budwiser" frogs and lizards). An attempt at organization is apparent but sentence structure is simplistic.

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Begin writing on this page.

Things Are Not Always What They Seem

Sometimes things turn out differently than you expect them to. Take books, for example. ~~Se~~ ~~Sometim~~ Once in a while, I look at a book and think it will be boring. But then I read and find out I was ~~ex~~extremely wrong.

In seventh grade, I read a book called "The Egypt Game," for a novel study. My best ~~fre~~ friend's English class had already begun the book and he said it was "retarded." Since it was a novel study, I had to read it anyway. I found out As I got further into it, something about it took control of my mind and I ~~acouldn't~~ couldn't put the book down. So much so that I read 150 pages of it in one night. The same went for ~~the~~ "The Diary of Anne Frank." At first I thought it would be boring because I didn't know what it was about. But then we read it and I ~~didn't~~ found that it took place in one of my favorite times in history - World War II.

I guess what I am trying to say is that you can't ~~j~~ judge a book by its cover, because it's true - appearances can be deceiving.

Score Point: 3

This response has a central idea that is clear, focused, and contains basic details. Overall organization is apparent and the sentence structure is varied. Surface feature errors may distract but do not interfere with understanding.

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Begin writing on this page.

I've made many assumption about people, places, foods and other such iters. Some of my ideas were wrong, and some were right. Have you ever made a ~~judgment~~ judgment about someone or something? Here are three assumptions that I've made that are completely wrong.

First of all, My first day at a new school. I knew absolutely no one! Not one face looked firmiliar. I noticed a group of kids that obviously knew each other. I thought to my self, "They look like jerks. Three weeks later I found myself hangin around those same three kids. They were really cool guys.

Secondly, there was the ~~first~~ first time I went to Cedar point. I was about ~~12~~ twelve years old. I used to live near a Six Flags Great America, so I already know about rollercoasters and such. A few of my friends offered to show me around. We bolted into the park and got in the first line we saw. The line lead us to the "Mantis." It looked just like the "Batman" at Six Flags. Little did I know it was nothing like the "Batman". I was a little nervous because

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it had been at least a year ~~ago~~ ~~ago~~ ~~ago~~ ago that I last went on a roller coaster. The ride started up, before I knew it I was dipping and clarting every which way. I was shocked! The "Mantis" was nothing at all like The "Batman".

Finally, there was the time I met one of my dad's business associates and his son. We went out to dinner then continued to a Redwings game.

The Mans son was about twenty-four. He wore a black leather jacket, torn jeans and a faded Greatful Dead T-shirt. I thought he was a dunce.

I sat next to the mans son and before I knew it we were talking and sharing some popcorn. It turns out hes a really nice guy.

In Conclusion, don't judge anything or anyone ~~on~~ on the first impression, even if they look like jerks or dunces.

Take the time to look back and think about all the times you've made assumptions. Don't you feel foolish? I know I do.

Score Point: 3

This response contains a central idea that is clear, focused, and adds basic details. Overall organization is apparent but too obviously structured. The sentence structure is varied and the response contains appropriate word choice. Surface feature errors do not interfere with understanding.

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Begin writing on this page.

Judgement Judgment

There are two kinds of judgement. One is an informed judgement, and the other is an uninformed ~~judgement~~ judgment. During the past year I have made quite a few of the latter. You would think that after a ~~few~~ making a few mistaken judgments, a person would learn to look farther into some subjects. It seems like an easy thing to do, making informed judgments. But, after you make a bad habit, as everyone knows it's hard to ~~be~~ break it.

This past Christmas my parents decided that our family was too materialistic. At first I thought that they had made an uninformed judgment. But as I began to look, I clearly saw many instances that we depended on material things to get us through a sticky situation. The decision was made that we would each buy one meaningful item for the other members of the family. I

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thought that since Christmas had always been big for us, this year would be different; maybe boring. But as the day came and progressed, the "Christmas feeling" was still there. I realized that presents and decorations aren't what make Christmas what it is. It was still Christ's birthday and nothing could change that fact. I was happy to finally realize the 'real' meaning of Christmas. I hope I don't make that uninformed judgment again.

Another example of an uninformed judgment was exhibited shortly after. My mom and I were delivering Christmas cards to elderly people who couldn't go to church to get them. We pulled up to a house where an elderly woman lived. She was almost eighty and walked with a limp. I didn't particularly like her because I didn't know her. I gave her her cards and we left. My mom sensed my being uncomfortable and started to tell me what she knew about the woman. She had been an overseas missionary, a

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parole officer and an army major. I was ashamed that I had made such a swift judgment. I learned again, things aren't always what they seem.

Having been through those things and many situations very similar, I have seen over and over how true that statement is. I'll never forget it. People should always dig deeper into people, issues, etc. before making any kind of judgment.

Score Point: 3

This response contains a central idea which is clear and focused. Overall organization is apparent and sentence structure varies. The response not only demonstrates appropriate word choice, but also includes engaging vocabulary.

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Begin writing on this page.

I'm sure everyone has had a crush before, but maybe things didn't turn out like they did for A. A had the biggest crush on the most popular guy in the 8th grade. His name was J. J was kind of smart, athletic and nice. Well nice to everyone besides A.

A had glasses, braces, clothes that were to J out of style and she was extremely smart. A also always wore a hat. J made fun of you constantly and made sure that she knew she looked like a dork, to him anyways.

Well one day in science class they were chosen to be partners on this major project. So when people found out that J's partner was A everyone was laughing and cracking jokes at and about him. So their first meeting was in the library and surprisingly it went well. J wasn't the show off, hard core guy anymore. It was a different side of him, he was actually being nice. He

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asked A why she always wore a hat. A just told him that now wasn't the time and when they were finish with their project then maybe ~~she'd~~ she would tell him.

So days went by and during the time, J would act all nice to her when no one was around but when someone was close by he acted like he hated her. They also had to keep their meetings a secret because of J wanting to keep his cool. Finally, they finished their project. J asked A, again, why she always wore a hat?

"I...I have leukemia and I'm starting to lose my hair." A said with a tear so full of sorrow, rolling down her cheek

"Oh sorry" J said, "I didn't know" "Well now you do and after we turn in our project you can finally go back to ignoring and making fun of me!" A ~~said~~ shouted with anger and sadness in her voice.

"No, I won't," J said in a voice

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to show he really meant what he was saying.

"I was wondering if maybe you would go to the movies with me sometime?"

J said calmly, "I heard you have a crush on me but why, I was nothing but mean to you."

"Well you do things I like to do and when I see how you treat other girls, I always put myself in that girl's position." A

said in a soft tone voice. "You wouldn't want to be seen with me anyways."

"How do you know, I like you and your personality, you actually make me feel smart and like I'm someone really special."

"Well I guess I will go to the movies but only under one condition"

"What?" J said

"Everyone knows you are going with me" So after the movies J and A became a couple and also Aced their project.

Score Point: 4

This response contains a central idea that is clear, focused, and uses creative, insightful detail. The organization helps unify the response, and the dialogue helps to move the reader easily through the response. The response demonstrates varied use of standard writing conventions with few errors.

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Begin writing on this page.

A great sea of words branching off into tiny rivulets. All words, frightening and gentle, large and small flow from this great pool of knowledge. Then, they stream into covers to form books of all sizes and subjects. But the covers, oh horrors! What did the unsuspecting and innocent books ever do to deserve such garish sheaths?

As an avid reader, I truly love my books, and I believe I do not often judge my books by their covers. However, if it wasn't for my best friend and my library's youth librarian, my shelves would

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be bereft of some timeless books (or at least they are to me).

One example is a book entitled, A Gathering of Gargoyles. Its cover is dark and foreboding, with small flying monsters. The book's cover also features a corpse-like winged vampire looking on as the main character and a heron pick another girl's chain's locks. It's not exactly the most endearing cover in the world. However, my best friend encouraged me to crack open the book. Inside lay a fantastic story of adventure. I have since added the book to my own library and read it often.

Another book I'm glad I disregarded its cover for

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is Blood and Chocolate. My public library's youth librarian led me to the books of Annette Curtis Klause. In this case, the cover was odd, but the title wasn't exactly encouraging, either. The cover is a mish-mash of photos and colors. Moon phases reside at the top, and the rest is a frenzy of portraits, trees, and wolves. I'm so glad I did not pass the book off without looking inside.

My librarian and best friend taught me so much about books and people. True beauty lies deeper than 'skin deep.' And if we never look beneath the cover, we will never find the beauty that lies within.

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May the wellspring of knowledge ever flow,
and may the rivulets of novels find a place in
our hearts, and let us cast aside the covers that
cause us to judge. Because, you know, you really
can't judge a book by its cover.

Score Point: 4

This response is clear and focused. An engaging voice is demonstrated through rich and precise word choice. This response contains creative, insightful detail, and demonstrates effective use of varied sentence structure.

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